

FILE COPY

March 12, 1986

TO: File

FROM: D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor/Reclamation Hydrologist

RE: Site Visit, U. S. Steel Corporation, Iron Mountain, PRO/021/008, Iron County, Utah

THIS MEMO APPLIES TO PROPOSED MINING TO THE AREA, AND WAS NEVER INCLUDED IN THE IRON MOUNTAIN REPROCESSING PLAN (021/008) DMW

On March 7, 1986, D. Wayne Hedberg and David M. Wham met with Lavoy Woolsey of CF&I and also Roy Benson of U. S. Steel. The purpose of the field visit was to inspect the site of the new proposed disturbance which is adjacent to the Comstock Iron Mine in Iron County. ⇒ Mt. Lion Pit?

The turn-off to the site is approximately 16 miles east of Cedar City, Utah, on State Highway 56. There are two green and white Gilbert development signs on the right hand side of the road at approximately 16 miles out of town. The turnoff to the site is after the second sign and it is a dirt road which intersects Highway 56. There is a Stop sign at the junction. From the turnoff, travel approximately 1/4 of a mile on the dirt road and then you will intersect another dirt road leading off to the left, travel on this secondary road approximately two to three miles on a winding, switchback road up to the site location. As a general landmark for reference, the turnoff is in the general vicinity of the abandoned mine dumps from the Comstock Iron Mine.

The first site inspected was located in a small draw near the top of a ridge which overlooks an active iron ore pit currently being mined by CF&I (?). There are two small outcrops of high grade magnetite which the operators are interested in mining. The two outcrops are approximately 300-400 yards apart and are situated near the top of a ridge separated by a small saddle or draw. The vegetation, again, is typical pinyon-juniper with sagebrush, various grasses and forbs, rabbitbrush, bitterbrush some astragalus, mountain mahogany. The area is heavily utilized by wildlife by virtue of the heavy browsing on the bitterbrush and mountain mahogany. There are small pockets of topsoil dispersed intermittently in and around the outcrop itself with various forms of vegetation growing in the cracks and crevices. Trying to salvage the intermittent pockets of topsoil will be quite difficult. It was suggested that the operator make concerted efforts at salvaging the topsoil all around the outslopes of the outcrop and stockpiling it appropriately. The host rock underlying the outcropping magnetite ore body is monzonite.

Chesapeake/
Excelsior
OVERLOOKS
COMSTOCK

EXCELSIOR/CHESAPEAKE

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The second site is located to the southwest of the first outcrop in an area that has previously been mined and is currently terraced and revegetated (refer to photos taken). The outcrop they mine is physically intrusive about 75 feet wide and can be mined to about 40 feet below the surface which currently sits above the terraced area in the pinyon-juniper. The mining technique will probably be the trenching operation below the outcrop and the beyond that will be drilled. The ore body will be drilled in 8 to 10 foot centers and blasted down into the trench and then hauled off. ~~A pond~~ Upon exhaustion of the ore body, the highwall will be blasted and rounded back down into the basically the existing configuration and terrain. ~~The soils (I can't hear this part because of wind) are essentially . . .~~ The length of the ore body is approximately 1,100 feet long by 75 to 100 feet wide. There will be approximately five acres of surface disturbance at the second site and approximately two acres on the first site.

Hydrologic concerns should be minimal. Some minor berming and diverting of any disturbed area drainage may be necessary as the mining sequence progresses. Mr. Benson was informed that upon submission of his MR-1 for this area, the assigned review team would most likely schedule a field trip down to the area to perform an onsite inspection themselves. Based upon the results of this field investigation, it was not apparent that any significant problems should be encountered during the permitting process and the operator was informed that no major concerns were foreseen at this time.

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